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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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5 Applicant: Michael Chen

Filing Date: 08/17/2000

Art Unit: 2872

Serial No.: 09/639,825

Docket No.: AVI007

10 Title: SCANNER WITH AN OUTPUT PORT CONNECTED TO A PRINTER
OR A STORAGE DEVICE

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

15

Subject:

1. Information disclosure statement under 37C.F.R. §1.56.
2. Petition to request consideration of the information disclosure statement.

20

Dear Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement in accordance with the duty to disclose information material to
25 patentability under 37 C.F.R. §1.56. The applicant wishes to make of record the document listed on the accompanying form PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the examiner initials the cited reference on the form and that it be made of record in the application and that a copy of the initialed
30 form be sent to the applicant with the next communication from the examiner.

Since the IDS is filed before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits, a petition to request consideration of the information disclosure statement is hereby requested according to 37C.F.R. §1.97(b). The prior art
5 patent contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in communications from the Taiwan Intellectual Property Office on September 22, 2001. The applicant sincerely requests the examiner to consider the item contained in the information disclosure statement.

10

According to the requirement set forth in 37C.F.R. §1.98 and M.P.E.P. 609 (Rev.3, July 1997), the applicant is submitting a copy of the cited reference (Taiwan Patent No. 320371) and a concise explanation of the relevance in this
15 application hereinafter.

The purpose of TP No.320371 is to provide a data processing device. The data processing device comprises a scanner 11, a processor 12 and a printer 13 as shown in Fig.1. The scanner
20 11 has a first parallel I/O port 14 which is used to transmit data signals, control signals and status signals. The processor 12 has a second parallel I/O port 15 which is electrically connected to the scanner 11 for transmitting data signals, control signals and status signals. The printer 13
25 is electrically connected to the first parallel I/O port 14 for printing image data. After the scanner 11 scans a document, the scanner will **store** the image data of the document in the **processor** 12. If a user issues a printing command, then the **processor** 12 **converts** the image data in a format consistent
30 with the printer, and outputs the converted image data to the printer through the first and second parallel I/O port 14, 15 so that the printer 13 can print the image data.

The amended claim 1 of the present application is repeated below.

- 5 1. A scanner comprising:
a casing;
a scanning module installed inside the casing for scanning
a document and generating corresponding image data;
10 **a control unit installed in the casing, the control unit**
comprising at least a memory for storing a control
program and the image data generated from the scanning
module, and a processor for executing the control
program to control the operations of the scanner; and
an output port electrically connected to the control unit
15 for connecting to at least one of different types of
portable storage devices;
wherein **when the scanning module finishes scanning a**
document, the control unit converts the image data of the
document according to the type of storage device that is
20 **connected to the output port and then transmits the image**
data converted by the control unit to the storage device.

Compared with TP No.320371, the scanner disclosed in the
amended claim 1 comprises **a control unit** installed in the
25 casing. The control unit is used to control the operations
of the scanner. The control unit comprises at least a memory
and a processor. The memory is used to store a control program
and the image data generated from the scanning module. The
processor is used to execute the control program to control
30 the operations of the scanner. When the scanning module
finishes scanning a document, the **control unit converts** the
image data of the document in a format consistent with the

output device (the storage device or the printer, depending on the type of device that is connected to the output port), and then outputs the converted image data to the output device. Therefore, the image data **need not be processed** by a computer,
5 but is only processed by the control unit of the scanner.

However, TP No.320371 fails to teach or suggest that the scanner includes a control unit that can **convert** the image data of the document according to the type of the printer that
10 is connected to the first parallel I/O port. After the scanner of TP No.320371 scans a document, the scanner **must** transmit the image data of the document to the processor for processing before the image data is transmitted to the printer. Therefore, the scanner of TP No.320371 **cannot** work independently from
15 the processor.

Since the scanner of the present application can **convert** the image data of the document and transmit the converted image data to the output device **without** the computer, it is believed
20 that the scanner of the amended claim 1 of the present application is substantially different from the teachings disclosed in TP No.320371.

The amended claim 6 of the present application is repeated
25 below.

6. A scanner comprising:
a casing;
a scanning module installed inside the casing for scanning
30 a document and generating corresponding image data;
a control unit installed in the casing, the control unit comprising at least a memory for storing a control

program and the image data generated from the scanning module, and a processor for executing the control program to control the operations of the scanner;
an output port electrically connected to the control unit
5 for connecting to an external portable storage device;
and
a printer port electrically connected to the control unit for connecting to an external printer;
wherein **when the scanning module finishes scanning a**
10 **document, the control unit converts the image data of the document and then transmits the image data converted by the control unit to the storage device via the output port, or converts the image data of the document and then transmits the image data converted by the control unit to**
15 **the printer via the printer port for printing.**

Similarly, the amended claim 6 of the present application also includes a control unit installed in the casing of the scanner. The control unit can **convert** the image data of the
20 document and then transmit the converted image data to the storage device through the output port, or transmit the converted image data to the printer through the printer port. Therefore, the scanner of the amended claim 6 of the present application can also work **independently** from the computer.
25 It is therefore believed that the scanner of the amended claim 6 of the present application is substantially different from the teachings disclosed in TP No.320371.

Since all other claims are dependent on the independent
30 claim 1 or 6, they are also substantially different from TP No.320371.

Respectfully Submitted,

Winston Hsu

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Complete if Known

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Considered

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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